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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/708,085	11/08/2000	Nobuhiro Jiwari	0819-450	9875

22204 7590 06/16/2003

NIXON PEABODY, LLP
8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE
SUITE 800
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2813

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/708,085

Applicant(s)

JIWARI ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7, 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see paper #20, page 2, filed on 4/4/03, with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akahori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,218,299) in view of Homma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,075).

Akahori et al. substantially discloses a method of forming a semiconductor device which includes: forming metal line (14, fig. 7a+), depositing an interlayer insulating film (13a) made of fluorine-containing organic film between the metal lines (14) using a material gas containing fluorocarbon as a main component in a reactor chamber of plasma processing apparatus, (col. 4, lines 30+, col. 6, lines 50+), wherein the fluorocarbon is C_nF_m , where n, m are an integer (see col. 7, lines 40-46), therefore, it is obvious that it includes: C_5F_8 , C_4F_6 , or C_4F_6 , densifying the

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fluorine-containing organic film by exposing the plasma of rare gas Ar in the same reactor chamber (col. 7, lines 20+, as claimed in claims 3, 5, 9).

However, the reference does not teach photoresist patterning the metal lines (as cited in claims 6-7).

Homma et al. discloses a method of forming a semiconductor device, which includes: forming metal lines (3, 4, 5) by known patterning methods such as with a photoresist masking and etching the conductive metal with plasma reactive ion etching (col. 4, lines 1+, called dry etch), filling the gap between the metal lines with insulating layer (7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the requisite art at the time the invention was made to modify Akahori's process of forming metal lines (14) with photoresist patterning and etching the metal with plasma etching to form metal lines as suggested by Homma because the technique of photoresist patterning to form metal line is well known in the art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see paper #20, page 2, filed on 4/4/03, with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 has been withdrawn.

Applicant contends none of the prior art teaches or suggested a step of the fluorocarbon is C_nF_m , where n, m are an integer, which includes: C_5F_8 , C_4F_6 , C_4F_6 . In response to applicant, Akahori teaches the fluorocarbon is C_nF_m , where n, m are an integer, it is obvious that it includes: C_5F_8 , C_4F_6 , C_4F_6 (see col. 7, lines 40-46).

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Applicant also contends that none of the prior art teaches or suggested a step of the fluorocarbon includes: C_5F_8 , C_4F_6 , C_4F_6 to reduce global warming. In response to applicant that only small ^{amount of} gas which is the by-product when forming the organic layer. Since the organic fluorine film is the product of the invention not the by-product.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-9439, or by Email via address Thanh.Nguyen@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30AM to 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Whitehead, Jr., can be reached on (703) 308-4940. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956 (See **MPEP 203.08**).



Thanh Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Patent Examining Group 2800

TTN